



WEEK
FIVE
DECEMBER 2023

LARGE GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS
RUG

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

BIBLE STORY

The wise men go to see Jesus,
God's Son.

THE WISE MEN
MATTHEW 2:1-2, 9-11

MEMORY VERSE

"God loved the world so much
that he gave his only Son."

JOHN 3:16, GNT

KEY QUESTION

How do we know
God loves us?

BOTTOM LINE

God gave us Jesus.

BASIC TRUTH

God loves me.

PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today.

In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

SMALL GROUP

15
MIN

SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Offer one or more of these activities as preschoolers arrive.

Star Projector
Track Shapes
It's a Wrap!

LARGE GROUP

20
MIN

WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

"Silent Night"
Bible Story
Prayer

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Offer as many of these activities as your time, facilities, resources, and leadership allow.

Order of the Train
Pass the Train
Gift Finders
Line Up the Story
Wise Men Pop-Up
Journal and Prayer

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Going Home
Memory Verse Card
Parent Cue Card (*print or email*)
Parent Cue App



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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

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STORY

GROUPS

HOME

10 MINUTES

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LARGE GROUP

ENGAGE CHILDREN'S HEARTS THROUGH A DYNAMIC AND
INTERACTIVE BIBLE STORY, WORSHIP, AND PRAYER EXPERIENCE IN
A LARGE GROUP SETTING.

WORSHIP

WHAT YOU NEED: "Memory Verse Card" from Week One in Bible; instruments
or music player; and this month's worship song, "Silent Night," included in your
monthly files; Optional Dance Moves Video for "Silent Night," available in the
Media Package if you subscribe or from OrangeKidsMusic.com

LEADER: "Friends, I'm SO excited to see you today! My name is [your name]. I
hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas. Christmas is when we celebrate Jesus'
birthday. God gave us Jesus because God loves us! **How do we know God
loves us?"**

CHILDREN AND LEADER: "God gave us Jesus."

LEADER: "You've got it! Now stand up on your feet, and let's sing all about it!"

*Lead children in singing "Silent Night," this month's
worship song.*

"God loves me. God loves you, too! And He showed us just how much He loves
us when He gave us Jesus! The Bible teaches us that 'God (*flat hand with thumb
to forehead, pull down*) loved the world (*cross arms over chest*) so much (*pull
hands away from each other*) that he gave his only Son,' (*rock arms like a baby*)
John 3:16. (*Open hands like a book.*) Let's say our memory verse together with the
motions.

Lead children to say the memory verse with the motions.

"Yes, God loves you and God loves me. And we celebrate Jesus' birthday on
Christmas. One more time, **how do we know God loves us?"**

CHILDREN AND LEADER: "God gave us Jesus."

LEADER: "God loves us SO much God gave us Jesus! That's why Christmas is
such a big celebration! Thanks for worshipping with me today. **[Transition]** And
now it's time to turn around, sit down, and shake the wiggles out (*wiggle hands*)
so we can hear (*cup hands behind ears*) what the story's all about!"



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STORY

WHAT YOU NEED: Bible; *Optional Story Images and cardstock*

LEADER: "Hello, friends! I'm [your name], and I can't wait to tell you a true story from the Bible.

Open Bible for children to see, then set it down.

"Christmas is when we celebrate that Jesus was born. God loves us so much, **God gave us Jesus!**

(Option: Display Story Image W5 01)

"Now there were people called wise men who lived very far away. They were waiting for Jesus to be born because they knew Jesus was God's Son.

(Option: Display Story Image W5 02)

"After Jesus was born, God put a special star in the sky to show the wise men the way to Jesus so that they could celebrate Him.

(Option: Display Story Image W5 03)

"The wise men knew they could follow the star to get to Jesus. It was a long journey, but they finally got there! The wise men were SO happy to see Jesus.

(Option: Display Story Image W5 04)

"As soon as they saw Him, they gave Jesus gifts and worshipped Him.

(Option: Display Story Image W5 05)

"They wanted to show how special Jesus is. And we know Jesus is special because Jesus is God's Son! God loves us so much that God gave us Jesus!

"Wow! What an amazing story! Do you think we could start at the beginning and look at the whole Christmas story train? I think we can!

"The true story of Christmas begins with Mary. God sent an angel (*point to angel*) to tell Mary she would have a baby and the baby would be named . . .?"

Pause for children to respond.

CHILDREN AND LEADER: "JESUS!"

LEADER: "And we know Jesus is special because Jesus is God's Son!"



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"Later, Mary and Joseph (*point to Mary and Joseph*) went to a town called Bethlehem. Mary and Joseph stayed in a stable where animals live because there were no rooms anywhere else. And that's where Baby Jesus was born—a stable!

"There were some shepherds out in a field taking care of their . . . ?"

CHILDREN AND LEADER: "SHEEP!"

LEADER: "God sent an angel to tell the shepherds that Jesus had been born. The shepherds ran as fast as they could to find Baby Jesus! When the shepherds got to the stable, they saw Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus, just like the angels said they would.

"Later, God sent a star to show some wise men where to find Jesus. When the wise men found Jesus, they worshipped Him and gave Him gifts.

"And that is the true story of Christmas. Christmas is when we celebrate that **God gave us Jesus!** And now that you know the true story of Christmas, when someone asks, '**How do we know God loves us?**', you can say, '**God gave us Jesus!** **How do we know God loves us?**'"

CHILDREN AND LEADER: "**God gave us Jesus!**"

LEADER: "One more time! **How do we know God loves us?**"

CHILDREN AND LEADER: "**God gave us Jesus!**"

LEADER: "Christmas is over, but knowing God loves us and gave us Jesus is something we can celebrate every day! **[Transition]** Our story time is over (*pick up and close Bible*), but we're not through. Let's talk to God because God loves you!"

PRAYER

LEADER: "Dear God, thank You for the true story of Christmas. Help us celebrate Jesus like the wise men did. We don't have to wait for Christmas to celebrate that You love us and gave us Jesus. We can do that every day! We love You, God. In Jesus' name, we pray, amen.

Transition] "And now it's time for more Bible fun. There's more to learn. Come on, everyone!"

Lead small group to first activity.



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GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET READY FOR THIS WEEK

Gather children for a Large Group time that includes interactive worship and the Bible story. The Rug Script is written for those who pull their children to a rug (or area) to one side of their preschool space to tell the Bible story. If you gather your preschoolers together from multiple rooms and have a larger space on which to present the Bible story, you may benefit from using the Stage Script.

WORSHIP: INVITING PEOPLE TO RESPOND TO GOD (10 MINUTES)

A leader and live instruments are recommended to sing along with the music tracks. Encourage children to be active during worship by incorporating the appropriate hand motions.

STORY: COMMUNICATING GOD'S TRUTH IN ENGAGING WAYS (10 MINUTES)

Choose an engaging adult to tell the Bible story. This person should be able to command the attention of preschoolers and control the group through animated storytelling. These scripts are written to be "told" and not "read." Advanced preparation is necessary.

1. WORSHIP

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Leader(s)
- Instruments or music player
- "Memory Verse Card" from Week One placed in Bible at John 3:16

MUSIC AND SOUND EFFECTS:

- This month's worship song, "Silent Night," included in your monthly files

OPTIONAL VIDEOS (AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE):

- Dance Moves Music Video for "Silent Night," available in the Media Package if you subscribe or from OrangeKidsMusic.com

WHAT YOU DO:

- Download all songs available on OrangeKidsMusic.com and have them ready to use.

2. BIBLE STORY

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Bible
- *Optional cardstock*

LARGE GROUP VISUALS:

- Story Image W5 01
- Story Image W5 02
- Story Image W5 03
- Story Image W5 04
- Story Image W5 05

WHAT YOU DO:

- *Option: Copy the Optional Story Images on cardstock or download them to display on a screen.*

SUPPLEMENTAL RESOURCES

WONDER, LOOK AT GOD'S STORY: First Look offers weekly introductory sketches and Bible stories on the DVD titled "Wonder, Look at God's Story." This DVD is available for purchase at OrangeStore.org or as part of your monthly Media Package.

FIRST LOOK PINTEREST PAGE

Visit our Pinterest page to see craft samples and suggested supplies. bit.ly/FL_ChristmasTrain